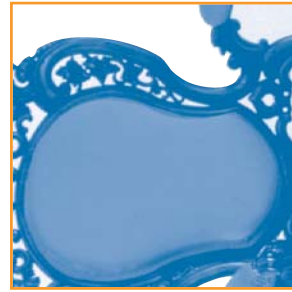


Choices & Challenges

Collecting by Museums and Archives
November 1-3, 2002



A Symposium Presented by • Benson Ford Research Center • Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village • Dearborn, Michigan • With support from the Americana Foundation

SYMPOSIUM OVERVIEW

What to collect? Who has the authority to collect? Should there be collaboration among collectors? What determines a successful collection? These are some of the issues that will be addressed during “Choices and Challenges: Collecting by Museums and Archives,” a national symposium for curators and archivists. This symposium will take place November 1 – 3, 2002, at the Benson Ford Research Center of Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village, with support from the Americana Foundation.

Collecting – deciding what to acquire, why, and for what purpose – is one of the most critical activities a curator or archivist undertakes. Museums and archives are defined by their collections, yet the literature on collecting as a discrete study has been uneven, at best. This symposium will bring together curators and archivists from history museums, historical societies, and collecting repositories for a lively discussion about collecting.

About Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village

Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village provides unique educational experiences based on authentic objects, stories, and lives from America’s traditions of innovation, resourcefulness, and ingenuity. Henry Ford Museum is an indoor facility containing nine acres of exhibits. Greenfield Village is an outdoor history park containing 79 historic structures on 70 acres. The collections, which number nearly 1 million three-dimensional artifacts and over 26 million items of printed and archival material, reflect American life and span more than 300 years.

About the Americana Foundation

The Americana Foundation, established by Adolph and Ginger Meyer, supports educational and advocacy programs that address the preservation of American agriculture, the conservation of natural resources, and the protection and presentation of expressions of America’s heritage.

Symposium Location

The symposium will be held in the Benson Ford Research Center on the campus of Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village located in Dearborn, Michigan. The Benson Ford Research Center opened to the public in March 2002 and provides library services and public access to the Museum’s collections as well as facilities for the preservation of the Museum’s textiles, clothing, graphics, paintings, toys, library collections, photographs, posters, prints, and archival holdings.

Symposium featured speakers:

Lonnie G. Bunch - President of the Chicago Historical Society. Bunch also has worked in various capacities at the Smithsonian Institution.

Richard Cox - Professor at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Information Sciences, Archival Studies.

Barbara Franco - President and CEO of the Historical Society in Washington, DC. Franco is currently heading up a project of the society to create a City Museum of Washington, DC that will open in 2003 at the renovated Central Public Library building at Mount Vernon Square.

Elaine Heumann Gurian - Consultant and advisor to a number of museums and visitor centers. Heumann Gurian's current clients include, in part: the National Museum of Australia, The Jewish Museum Berlin and the Government of Puerto Rico's proposed children's museum, PRISMA.

Respondents from the archival and the museum community will comment on each address.

At the symposium conclusion, an archivist and a museum curator will summarize the salient points of the weekend.

Cost

The registration fee is \$100 per person.

This fee includes all sessions, meals (Friday dinner, Saturday continental breakfast, lunch, dinner, Sunday continental breakfast), and admission to Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village.

This fee does not include travel costs or hotel accommodations, which are the responsibilities of the attendee. Since space is limited, early registration is encouraged. Registration will be confirmed via email notification. The last day for registration is September 30, 2002. Cancellations received prior to September 30, 2002 will be refunded in full. No refunds will be made after this date.

Hotel Information

A special room rate (\$79 plus tax) is available at:

The Dearborn Inn
20301 Oakwood Blvd.
Dearborn, Michigan 48124

1-800-228-9290 or 1-313-271-2700

The special rate applies to reservations made prior to October 1, 2002. Please specify the group name "Collecting Symposium" when making your room reservation.

Transportation

Limited shuttle service from The Dearborn Inn to Henry Ford Museum may be available. The Dearborn Inn is an easy walk to the Museum complex.

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

Friday, Nov. 1

- 5:30 pm Registration
- 6:00 pm Dinner
- 7:30 pm **Elaine Heumann Gurian –
"The Many Meanings of Objects"**
Respondents:
Barbara Carson, The College of William and Mary,
James O'Toole, Boston College
Audience Discussion
- 9:00 pm Dessert Reception

Saturday, Nov. 2

- 8:30 am Continental Breakfast
- 9:30 am **Richard Cox –
"Archival Appraisal Alchemy"**
Respondents:
Mark Greene, University of Wyoming

Kristen Hass, University of Michigan
Audience Discussion

- 11:00 am Break
- 11:30 am **Barbara Franco –
"Collecting Stories, Creating Meaning:
Community-Based Collecting in the
21st Century"**
Respondents:
Susan McLeod, Chippewa Valley
Museum
Kathleen Roe, New York State Archives
Audience Discussion

1:00 pm Lunch

- 2:00 pm **Lonnie Bunch –
"Who Owns The Past?"**
Respondents:
Joel Wurl, University of Minnesota
Eric Sandwiess, Indiana University
Audience Discussion

3:30 pm **Tour the Benson Ford Research Center
or Visit the Henry Ford Museum or
Greenfield Village**

7:00 pm Dinner in Henry Ford Museum

Sunday, Nov. 3

- 8:30 am Continental Breakfast
- 9:30 am **Summaries –
Christopher Bensch, Strong Museum
John Fleckner, National Museum of
American History, Smithsonian
Institution**
- 10:10 am Break
- 10:30 am **Panel Discussion of featured speakers**
- 11:30 am Audience Discussion
- Noon Symposium Concludes

REGISTRATION FORM

Name Title/Organization

Address

City State Zip

Business Phone

E-Mail Address

Vegetarian meal preference: Yes No

Registration Fee: \$100 per person

Method of Payment:

- Check (made payable to Henry Ford Museum)
- American Express
- Discover
- MasterCard
- Visa

Credit Card Information:

Card Number Expiration Date

Name (as it appears on card)

Signature

Send your completed registration form and payment before September 30, 2002 to:

Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village
Attn: Marilyn Yee
P.O. Box 1970
Dearborn, MI 48121

Questions? Please call (313) 982-6100, ext. 2559
email MarilynY@hfmvgv.org • Fax number: (313) 982-6245